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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GE Healthcare Foundation Awards Developing Health Grant to Sixteenth Street Community Health Center

Sixteenth Street Community Health Center is honored to be one of *two Milwaukee Health Centers selected to receive funding from GE Healthcare Foundation's Developing Health program. A total of \$1 million will be allocated to the two health centers (four service sites) in two installments over the next two years.

Details on use of the funds are not known at this time, although funds are required to be used for programs designed to increase access to primary care and uses must be approved by the Foundation. Hiring additional personnel to care for more patients, developing new programs to address a community need or expanding existing outreach efforts are just some of the possibilities for Sixteenth Street's use of grant funds.

The GE Developing Health program also includes a volunteer component, with GE employees working together with Sixteenth Street staff on the project that is funded through the grant, or on a totally different project, depending on the needs of the agency. Expertise from GE volunteers should result in sustainable improvements for access to care for the underserved.

According to John Bartkowski, DrPH, President and CEO of Sixteenth Street, "Community health centers are, by definition, designed to help people overcome barriers to care by being located in a neighborhood setting, providing services on a sliding fee scale for uninsured patients and employing bi-lingual and culturally competent staff. This two pronged gift from GE opens up new possibilities for us. We are tremendously grateful."

In 2009, more than 30,000 people relied on Sixteenth Street for pediatric and adult medical care, women's health services, behavioral health counseling and treatment, chronic disease management (diabetes, asthma, HIV) supportive social services, health education and lead poisoning prevention. Sixteenth Street operates two clinical sites, the Chavez Health Center (1032 S. Cesar E. Chavez Drive) the Parkway Health Center (2906 S. 20th Street) and the Greenfield/Administration building and WIC Program (1337 S. Cesar E. Chavez Drive).

* Milwaukee Health Services, Incorporated, located on Milwaukee's north side is the other health center to receive funding.

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